

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

OC-05 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00

WRD-01 SCCT-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W

----- 064963

O P 300856Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8031

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPACREPHIL PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y: MISSING LINE PARA 2

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, JA, RP

SUBJECT: JAPANESE FREIGHTER HIJACKING

1. ADMIRAL ESPALDON NEGOTIATED SURRENDER REPEAT SURRENDER OF HIJACKERS SEPTEMBER 29. JAPANESE SHIP RETURNING TO JAPAN. PRESIDENT WET SOUTH TO ZAMBOANGA MORNING SEPTEMBER 30 TO RECEIVE SURRENDER BECAUSE HIJACKERS WOULD, ALLEGEDLY, SURRENDER ONLY TO HIM. PRESIDENT'S VISIT NOT YET PUBLICIZED.

2. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY PLEASED AT RELEASE OF SHIP, AND ADMITS THAT ADMIRAL ESPALDON'S TACTICS PAID OFF THIS TIME, THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH GOP. JAPANESE EMBASSY BELIEVES GOP TOOK UNNECESSARY RISKS AND APPLIED DANGEROUS PRESSURES ON HIJACKERS THAT COULD HAVE BACKFIRED. GOP KEPT EMBASSY INADEQUATELY INFORMED OF ITS POLICY OR OF EVENTS AS THEY TRANSPIRED. EMBASSY LEARNED THAT HI-JACKERS HAD TRANSFERRED TO PHILIPPINE NAVY SHIP

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SEPTEMBER 29 BUT DID NOT KNOW, AS PRESS EXTENSIVELY

REPORTED TODAY, THAT HIJACKERS HAD SURRENDERED.

3. DISPLEASURE AT BEING KEPT IN DARK BY GOP JOINED WITH BELIEF THAT GOP HAS NOT EXPRESSED QDEQUATE CONCERN AT THIS EVENT, AT KIDNAPPING OF MISS SEKI OR -- BY COINCIDENCE -- ROBBERY OF JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S HOUSE SEPTEMBER 25 SHORTLY AFTER GOP HAD PUT ON FOUR EXTRA GUARDS WITH REFERENCE TO JAPANESE RED ARMY SCARE. (PROTOCOL CHIEF DID TELL AMBASSADOR DURING CHANCE MEETING HE WAS SORRY BUT SAID, AFTER ALL, IT IS DAILY OCCURRENCE.) EMBASSY PROPOSING TO TOKYO THAT IT SUBMIT NOTE TO DFA EXPRESSING PLEASURE AT RELEASE OF SHIP BUT REQUESTING REASSURANCE THAT GOP TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT FUTURE OCCURRENCES.

4. WE DO NOT HAVE DETAILS ON SURRNDER AND WILL REPORT WHEN OBTAINED. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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